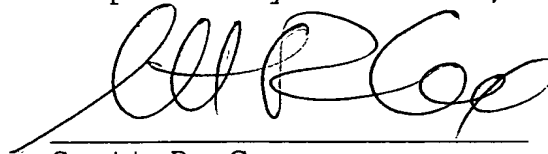


CONCLUSION

The applicants assert that the above-referenced claims are now in condition for review and request said review by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. If there are any questions concerning this Preliminary Amendment or any of the claims, please contact applicants' counsel.

Respectfully Submitted,

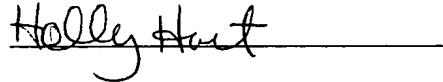


Scott R. Cox
Reg. No. 31,945
LYNCH, COX, GILMAN & MAHAN, PSC
500 West Jefferson, Ste. 2100
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
(502) 589-4215

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee, mailing Label Number EQ 069676192 US, addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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